To facilitate the achievement of these objectives the following steps have been taken:

- Rural electrification is now treated as Basic Minimum Service and has been included under the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) from the year 2001 -02

- Government has released an amount of Rs. 17.04 crores under PMGY and Rs. 11.33 crores under Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) to the Government of Orissa during 2001-02 for rural electrification.

- Against an allocation of Rs. 60 crore under MNP for 2002-03, Government has released an amount of Rs. 30.00 crores to Orissa.

- States can also access funds from Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) and Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) for the programme.

- Rural Electrification Corporation have formulated new schemes for electrification of dalit bastis and hamlets at lower rate of interest.

- Orissa Government have been requested to finalize an Action Plan year-wise for completing the electrification of all villages during the 10th Plan.

Giving training in all regions by CEA

2156. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Electricity Authority has started giving training in all regions of the country to accelerate improvement of the electricity supply system of the country;

(b) the details of the regions in which the training is going to be conducted, State-wise; and

(c) the details of time-frame that has been fixed within which the training is to be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) Central Electricity Authority (CEA) was assigned to undertake capacity building exercise for the staff of SEBs with the assistance of PFC, NTPC, POWERGRID and other Advisor cum Consultants for carrying out a assessment of the works and investments required for the strengthening and improvements of the sub-transmission and distribution system in the balance circles of the country. The CEA has organized the following workshops in all the regions of the country.

City	Date	Region
New Delhi	06.09.2002	Northern Region
Chandigarh	10.09.2002	Northern Region
Bangalore	16.09.2002	Southern Region
Guwahati	20.09.2002	North Eastern Region
Kolkata	24.09.2002	Eastern Region
Mumbai	30.09.2002	Western Region

Gas based power plants

2157. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the necessary steps taken by Government for setting up of gas-based power plants in the various parts of the country particularly in the State of Assam; and

(b) the details of funds granted for the same during the Ninth Five Year Plan and the funds proposed to be granted during the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The details of gas based power plants proposed to be set up during the 10th Plan in the country including Assam, along with expenditure incurred during the 9th Plan and proposed in the 10th Plan on these projects are given as under: